



Carlsbad Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Crime/Incident:	187(a) P.C. Homicide	Case:	11-01985
Date:	4-1-11	Time:	0105
Location:	3500 Valley Street, Carlsbad		
Suspect 1:	Verkade, Joseph	Age:	34
Suspect 2:	Gault, Michael	Age:	30
Suspect 3:	Strauch, Heather	Age:	32
Victim 1:	White Male, (Refer to Medical Examiner's press release)	Age:	

Initial Press Release: On 4-1-11, at approximately 0105 hours, Carlsbad Police officers responded to an assault with a deadly weapon call in the 3500 block of Valley Street, Carlsbad. When officers arrived on scene they found the victim severely injured. The victim was pronounced deceased at the residence. The suspects fled the scene prior to officers' arrival.

Carlsbad Police detectives conducted an investigation into this homicide. During this investigation, Carlsbad Police detectives secured a search warrant for a motel room located at the Motel 6, located at 3708 Plaza Drive, Oceanside. On 4-2-11, at approximately 0400 hours, Carlsbad Police SWAT officers served the search warrant and detained three suspects inside the motel room. Following further investigation, Suspects- Grant Hunter and Mercedes Yorba were arrested and booked into the Vista Detention Facility for 187(a) P.C. Homicide, 212.5(a) P.C. Residential Robbery, 460(a) P.C. Residential Burglary, and 182(a)(1) P.C. Conspiracy. Suspect Gary Gomez was arrested and booked into the Vista Detention Facility for 32 P.C. Accessory, 11350(a) H&S Possess Controlled Substance and 11364 H&S Possess Drug Paraphernalia. The Carlsbad Police Department is continuing this investigation in an attempt to identify and arrest any additional suspect(s) associated with this homicide.

The Carlsbad Police Department requests that any person with information regarding this incident, please call 760-931-2197.

UPDATE

On 4-11-11, at approximately 1640 hours, Carlsbad Police detectives were conducting further investigation regarding this homicide in the 2300 block of Ron Way, San Diego, when they contacted suspects Joseph Verkade, Heather Strauch, and Michael Gault. With the assistance of the San Diego Police Department, Carlsbad Police detectives were able to arrest these three suspects. Carlsbad Police investigators then secured a state search warrant for a residence located in the 2300 block of Ron Way, San Diego, that is associated with these suspects. A search of the residence revealed evidence associated with this homicide.

Suspects Heather Strauch and Michael Gault were arrested for 187(a) P.C. Homicide,

212.5(a) P.C. Residential Robbery, and 182(a)(1) P.C. Conspiracy. Suspect Joseph Verkade was arrested for 187(a) P.C. Homicide, 212.5(a) P.C. Residential Robbery, 460(a) P.C. Residential Burglary, and 182(a)(1) P.C. Conspiracy. All of the suspects were booked into the Vista Detention Facility.

The Carlsbad Police Department requests that any person with information regarding this incident, please call 760-931-2197.

Prepared By:	Sgt. Mickey Williams	Phone:	760-931-2139
For Further Information:	Lt. Kelly Cain	Phone:	760-931-2166